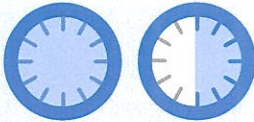


2.3

A Biblical View of Sexuality

TIME



90 MINUTES

SUPPLIES

FLIP CHART/NEWSPRINT

FASHION MAGAZINES/NEWSPAPERS THAT CAN BE CUT

SCISSORS

PAPER

PEN

MARKERS

'WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN TREATING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION' CHART

NAME CARDS WITH SINGLE WORDS: RAPE, INCEST, HIV/AIDS, STI'S, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, CONFUSED SEXUAL IDENTITY, RITUAL SEX (CARDS WILL BE USED FOR ROLE PLAY)

THREE BLINDFOLDS (FOR ROLE PLAY)

NOTES TO THE FACILITATOR

Sex is a large topic in the Bible. More verses, even chapters and books, are dedicated to sexual matters than to the church, baptism, angels, and repentance.

The whole books of Hosea and Song of Solomon deal broadly with topics related to sex, as well as Genesis 29 and 34; Leviticus 18 and 20; 2 Samuel 13; and 1 Corinthians 7.

Yet, in many cultures of the world, sex is a taboo topic. Even among Christians who recognise that sex is a topic God addressed in Scripture, there is a reluctance to talk or teach about sex. As a result, many people of faith view sex through the eyes of their secular culture instead of through God's eyes.

When the church begins ministering to men, women, and children who have been sexually exploited, it must be willing to address the topic of sex. Each woman, man and child who has been victimised in a brothel, a porn studio or on the street has had his/her sexuality attacked. To help them find whole healing in Christ, caregivers must be prepared to help them rebuild their sexuality with sensitivity and understanding.

This is the third of four sessions on A Biblical Framework for a Christian Response to Human Trafficking.

During this learning session, participants will...

- know that God created human sexuality and it is good.
- know what God's Word says about human sexuality and how it is different from their culture's perspective.
- understand why caregivers of the exploited must be willing to acknowledge and address sexual realities from God's perspective.

STARTER

15 MINUTES



ACTIVITY

Give everyone in the group at least one magazine and a pair of scissors. Ask them to review the fashion magazines/newspapers, looking for images and/or articles that portray sexual images or views.

Photos and articles should be cut out and participants prepared to share them with the group. The guiding questions are: 'What does the image or article suggest about sex?' 'What do you think is the perspective of the photographer/magazine/author about sex?'

DISCUSS

Have participants share their findings with the whole group.

MAIN DIALOGUE

Three Views of Sexuality

EXPLAIN



30 MINUTES

In order to understand God's view of sexuality, it is helpful to look at two other views in contrast: the view of the secular world and the view of the church.

A SECULAR WORLDVIEW OF SEX

The world is full of sexual images. One can see and hear depictions of sex in films, advertising, art and music. Sex talk comes from psychologists, teachers, children and sometimes parents. It is viewed as a natural biological function.

Some believe sexual urges cannot be controlled once aroused and should not be repressed. In this view, the individuals don't believe in rules or boundaries. They can do whatever they please with whomever they please.

Secular worldviews suggest that sex makes everything better.

- It relieves loneliness, boredom, anger, and stress.
- Engaging in sex even helps physical problems like headaches and menstrual cramps.
- Not only does sex make life better, it can be used in a secular market to sell anything from motorcycles to toothpaste to shoes.
- If a sexual image can be added to a marketing plan, it will have greater success.

DISCUSS

Ask the group: What are some sexual images that are used in secular society and in what forms? What do the images suggest about sex?

EXPLAIN

THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF SEX

- Throughout the centuries, the church has tried to counter the world's view of sex.
- It has tried to present sexual purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage as God's plan for sexuality.
- Unfortunately, at the same time, the church has often treated sex as a taboo topic and neglected teaching about sex education.
- Believing that sex is only intended for marriage, sometimes the church has given the impression that teaching about sex should be left until marriage.
- In other cases, the church has taught that sex is only for having children.
- The sexual problems in marriages and individuals have tended to be ignored.
- The church's traditional view of sex stresses morality and faithfulness that God prescribes for sex within marriage.
- However, it has undervalued the importance that God's Word gives to sexual matters.
- Without the balance of biblical teaching about sex, the church's view has sometimes been less than healthy.

DISCUSS

Ask the group:

1. How would they describe their church's view on the topic of sex as a part of life?
2. Is there teaching on sex and God's intentions for sexuality?

EXPLAIN

GOD'S VIEW OF SEX

- God created human beings male and female (Genesis 1:27).
- Humans cannot separate who they are from their gender. One's maleness or femaleness infuses one's personality, attitudes, habits and beliefs.
- God created humans to be sexual, and God viewed His creation as good (Genesis 1:31).
- In the Bible, sex is presented as a gift to be treasured and shared.
- The book, *The Song of Songs* gives many images of the Lover and his Beloved longing for each other in a sexual manner. The Lover and the Beloved describe each other's strength, beauty, and love. The Beloved is so taken with her love for her Lover that she warns the younger women, "... Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires" (*Song of Songs* 2:7 and 3:5). They cherish one another over everyone else with passion and exuberance.

- The Bible suggests that sex is for bonding a husband and wife into a lasting relationship. Scripture repeatedly teaches husbands and wives to remain sexually faithful to their spouse.
- Genesis 2:24, 25 teaches that because Eve was created out of Adam's bone and flesh, "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."
- From the beginning of the creation, God also identifies sex as a reproductive act.
- It will produce children (Genesis 1:28), but it is to be enjoyed and satisfying to both spouses. Proverbs 6 warns young men about having affairs with other women and encourages them to enjoy sex with their own wives.
- God clearly identifies the boundaries for sex. Husbands and wives are not to engage in sex with anyone outside the marriage relationship. Moses and Paul both write sound advice about sexual boundaries.

(Have the following verses read out loud by different participants):

- No rape (Deuteronomy 22:25-27)
- Don't make your daughter be prostituted (Leviticus 19:29)
- No sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)

EMPHASISE God's perspective on sex is not an unrestricted irresponsible secular worldview. Nor is it the prudish view sometimes held by the church. God created sex and presents it as positive and celebratory but with specific boundaries for its protection and enjoyment.

DISCUSS Ask the group:

1. Which of the three views is most closely like your own?
2. Why is it important to embrace God's perspective of sexuality?

Sexual Realities for Aftercare

EXPLAIN



30 MINUTES

Aftercare providers must recognise the reality of dealing with the sexual issues of survivors of sexual slavery. Some victims come for help with sexually transmitted infections and traumatic injuries. All of them come with injured and distorted sexual experiences and images. The sexual part of the exploited woman, man or child cannot be ignored. It must be treated in the care process, if full healing is to occur.

- Caregivers must work to help women, men, and children regain God's view of them as sexual beings, and to instill within them His purposes for their sexuality.
- Working through the healing process takes time, but God wants them to have a healthy attitude about sex.

- Caregivers must examine their own sexual attitudes and make sure their sexual beliefs match those God wants them to have.

Present the chart, 'What to Expect' on the flip chart or as a handout.

What to Expect When Treating Survivors of Sexual Exploitation

1. Sexually Transmitted Infections
2. Traumatic injuries
3. Confused sexuality
4. Fear or hatred of the opposite sex
5. Masturbation
6. Sexual advances and/or behaviours with other after-care clients or staff, even those of the same gender.
7. Regression to former sexual behaviours and practises



ACTIVITY

Divide group into smaller groups of 5-6 people. Have everyone focus on the "What to Expect" realities and answer the following questions within their group:

- In light of the sexual realities listed, what are your concerns as a potential giver of care? (List on paper for group debriefing.)
- In light of the biblical themes studied in Session 1, how can caregivers approach the realities listed?
- Go through each item one at a time. What could be the role and response of a Christian caregiver in helping survivors deal with each one?
- Make a list of guidelines that can be used to help caregivers approach the sexual problems of survivors under their care. These should help survivors grow to view healthy sexuality as God intended rather than as their exploiters did.

DISCUSS

Have groups share their conclusions in the larger group. Compile a joint list of guidelines for caregivers that will help survivors address their damaged views of sexuality and lead them to a healthy biblical perspective.

WRAP UP

15 MINUTES 



ACTIVITY:
ROLE PLAY

Ask someone to volunteer who would be willing to help a young woman who has been sexually exploited. Place one blindfold over the eyes of the volunteer.

Then, select a woman to represent a survivor of sex trafficking who was sold into sex slavery as a young girl. Blindfold (or gag) her mouth and pin or tape the name cards on her that describe sexual realities that she might have experienced.

Have the survivor repeatedly plead for help from the volunteer, even while gagged. Have the volunteer who is blindfolded stand motionless.

State the challenge:

- How can we respond if we refuse to look and really see the need of exploited women and girls as they exist?
- How can the church respond to the cries of the enslaved if we refuse to talk about the sexual bondage of the victim?
- Without eyes willing to see and without voices willing to speak, sexual slavery in women and children will continue unchallenged!

PRAY

God, give us the courage to look with sensitive seeing eyes, no matter how painful! (Remove blindfold from volunteer.)

Give us the courage to speak to sexual realities with healing power and passion! (Remove gag from volunteer.)

God give us the courage to act in Jesus' Name and help victims find freedom and healing! (Volunteer removes survivor's blindfold mouth gag and name cards.)

Amen!